

SHAVINGS, SAWDUST and SPLINTERS

April 2001

TOOLS OF THE WEST

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

No. 772,574

COMPOUND TOOL

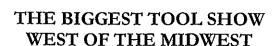
William P. McDowell, Hartsel, Colorado Application filed November 21, 1903, Serial No. 182,131

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in compound tools; and its object is to provide a device of this character which is especially adapted for use in constructing and repairing wire fences.

No. 772,574.

PATENTED OCT. 18, 1904.

W. P. McDOWELL. COMPOUND TOOL. APPLICATION FILED NOV. 21, 1803.

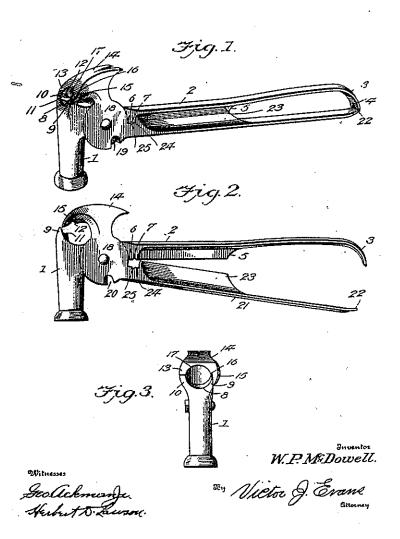


Coming August 31 and September 1, 2001 At the Sheraton Uptown Hotel, Albuquerque 2600 Louisiana Blvd., NE (505) 881-0000

presented by

The Rocky Mountain, Southwest and PAST **Tool Collectors**

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The Editor's Ramblings

Little late getting this one out. Seems to always creep up on my and I'm not prepared.

Due to Cliff Fales diligence in the past in setting up exchanges with other tool collecting clubs across the country and Canada, I receive many different clubs periodic newsletters. They come in all types from a couple of pages not entirely different from this, to periodicals you would expect to find on a magazine rack, replete with color photographs and glossy pages. Because of having the insight from all the different clubs, I'm aware of the many meetings, auctions, sales and get togethers that are going on all the time across the land. I've added a little bulletin board later in the SS&S with the events I'm aware of along with contacts if possible. If you happen to be travelling, either on business or pleasure and you happen to be around for a clubs meeting, drop in. You might find some tools we haven't seen here in the area and it is a way to strike up new friendships.

Speaking of meetings across the country, one to be sure and mark your calendars for now is **THE BIGGEST TOOL SHOW WEST OF THE MID-WEST** presented by our own Rocky Mountain Tool Collectors, Southwest Tool Collectors and P.A.S.T. Tool Collectors on August 31st and September 1st. Look for the notice elsewhere in this issue and look for more information later in the summer.

Last but not least, CORRECTIONS. In the December 2000 issue of the SS&S, I didn't have the dates and locations for the New Mexico Chapter meetings at press time. Hopefully, the dates and locations listed on back are correct now. Also, I had given credit in the byline for the August NM Area Meeting to Scott Jordan, when actually the meeting was held at Scott's place but the write-up was provided by Jason Fink. Finally, I have misspelled Don Jordan's name I don't know how many times. My humble apologies!!!

- Dan Kimpton

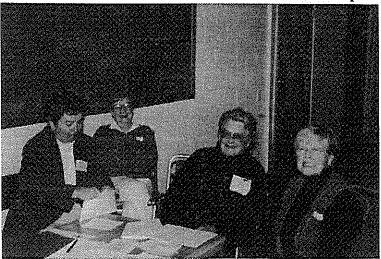


Photo by John Goss

The Ladies Checking Everyone at the January Meeting

Colorado Area meeting

SHAVINGS, SAWDUST & SPLINTERS

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From the President

First of all, I owe an apology. At our last meeting held in Golden I forgot to introduce new members and guests. We had a good turnout with excellent weather and about 80 people in attendance. So I'm sorry about the oversight and need someone to point these shortcomings out during the meeting.

Programs for Meetings

Our loyal friend Mike Liebman as been good enough to line up programs for all our meetings. I'm sure he would appreciate any suggestions you would have for educational or demonstration programs at future meetings. Don't be bashful as I'm sure everyone in the club has some information that others might find interesting. We also need to get our favorite tool show and tell going again. It only takes a short 5-minute or less talk. If you have some tool you're proud of or there is an interesting story behind it, please contact Bill Morrison or myself.

Auctions

Our Annual Meeting in Albuquerque over Labor Day 2001 will be held with the Southwest Tool Collectors and Preserving Arts & Skills of the Trades (PAST), as you know. This year RMTC will conduct the meeting and Southwest will conduct the auction. This includes the members as well as and estate if one is available. As you know with all of the people that come to this meeting it is a good time to sell tools. If you know of some good tools that are available please let us know. Emery Goad (of Southwest) hopes to have a collection out of Tennessee for this meeting, but the first one to throw in their lot will have the opportunity to sell at this meeting.

As you are aware, we have allowed members to submit up to 25 lots (besides the 3 normally allowed) to sell at auction. This gives the club a 5% commission for helping to get rid of these extra tools that are taking up valuable room at your house. We have two more members interested in doing this so if you would like to participate, let a board member know.

Meetings in 2002

I know it is early but it is also time to think about next year and where we will be holding meetings. If you have a location that would accommodate 80 to 100 people, please let John Goss or myself know. Alton Johnson has already graciously offered his place outside of Loveland for a meeting. Thanks to the Johnson's.

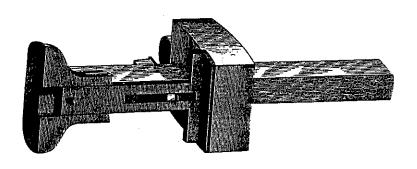
This is also a good time to think about hosting a meeting. Our Red Rocks Community College meeting didn't have any hosts until some people finally stepped in at the last minute and got the ball rolling. Thanks to Finch and Biays. I know there are some that never get involved and others that do it year after year. Remember that we can keep it simple and you don't have to feed an army!

Speaking of meetings, Don Jordan tells me he is having some dealers come to the meeting in July up at his place in Boulder. I hope we can have a good turnout and

good weather. These people will be flying in from the East and I hope it is beneficial to everyone involved.

Last but most important, I hope those members and their families that had health problems mentioned during our last meeting are recovering and in better health now. You have our prayers with you and a wish for a continued speedy recovery.

-John Gilmore



GOODELL'S SPOKE SHAVE



In This Issue

- Colorado meeting recaps
- New Mexico meeting recap
- New Members
- Tools of the West
- Tool Events
- Museum display & exhibition opportunities
- Book review

KRESGE'S 5 AND 10 CENT KATALOG ORIGINAL PARCEL POST 5¢ & 10¢ STORE

By Grace Jenkins Goss

Can you imagine buying a brace, a 12" level, a wrench, a saw, a hammer, a block plane, T Bevel, a screw driver, a square, a vise, a variety of pliers and most hardware items for only 10 cents each. Well, you could have from S. S. Kresge's Parcel Post Katalog. This katalog started in 1913 and only lasted a short time. One hundred S. S. Kresge's stores in 18 eastern and mid-western states participated in the 5 and 10 cent per item mail order katalog sales.

If you ordered \$10.00 worth of 5 and 10 cent items, Kresge would pay the parcel post fee. The order had to be one-third linens and notions with the balance being anything else such as utensils, glassware, hardware, toys or tools. Orders from non-participating states required a small amount of postage or 50 cents off the \$2.08 freight charge for shipping 100 pounds to as far away as Denver, CO. Kresge guaranteed shipment within 6 or 12 hours of receiving an order.

Kresge advised that orders under \$3.00 were both costly

to the customer as well as to them. They suggested that family and friends should 'club' an order. Can you imagine ordering \$10.00 worth of 5 and 10 cent items? Isn't that 200 5-cent items or 100 10-cent items?

Payment was required at the time the order was mailed. It could be in the form of a post office money order, New York bank draft or registered mail. If cash was the most convenient way for a customer to pay, it was suggested that the money be sent by registered mail in a durable, well-sealed envelope. Postage stamps would not be accepted. How did they ever live without credit cards?

You could order anything from fish hooks to an official boy scout axe, towels to toys, lace to hair pieces, sets of dishes to pots and pans, underwear to hats, and hardware to tools. Just about any conceivable item for either 5 or 10 cents per item.

The selection of toys and sporting equipment available for 5 or 10 cents each would keep a 'wish list' filled long after the *katalog* had yellowed. Wouldn't it be wonderful to buy at such prices today with our current wages!





Welcome New Members

Mr. Don Baker Lakewood, CO Mr. Loren Bendykowski Wheat Ridge, CO

Mr. Anthony R. Brazzale Arvada, CO

Mr. Ken Burris Albuquerque, NM Mr. Dick Carkeek Wheat Ridge, CO

Ms. Vicki Erickson Denver, CO
Mr. Stephen Gosselin Denver, CO
Mr. Robert Nunez Rio Rancho, N

Mr. Robert Nunez Rio Rancho, NM Mr. Jim Orr Erie, CO

Mrs. Pamela Philpott-Jones Denver, CO Mr. Dale Schaffer Longmont, CO

Mr. Ron Young Brighton, CO

February New Mexico Area Meeting

Dave & Connie Fessler's, February 24th By Jason Fink

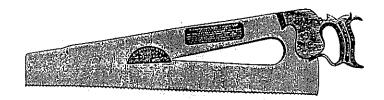
Once again Dave and Connie Fessler have hosted a RMTC meeting at their tooled abode. The turnout for a Fessler meeting is always great, be it because of his exceptional collection, his ample for-sale table, or perhaps Connie's fantastic posole. Ahhh, we may never know the secret, but I know I can always count on all of the above.

Today's meeting had 20 members including Don and Pat Jordan making the pilgrimage from faraway Boulder, Colorado. In addition, we finally managed to get newcomer Robert Nunez to pony up and join. Robert is a co-worker of mine who has a big interest in woodworking and talent for woodcarving. Welcome Robert, we are glad you have joined us on the slippery slope of tool-collecting.

As usual, the entire tool-collecting horde spent hours in Dave's shop building, scanning and re-scanning the tool tables, mingling and yakking. When someone (was it me?) realized that the posole was ready for ladling it was beeline time to the kitchen. Only after every one was satiated did Mr. Bill McDougall wisely call the meeting to order. We started with a small round of Show and Tell, including an interesting set of odd tools used for tuning pianos and a curious ball-end retractor device used in the surgical trade. After the show and tell, several of the Piano tuning tools were placed in the Raffle bin and quickly won by Susan Ferrand and Don Jordan. Norman McDowell was our final winner and strangely he was most reluctant to choose his prize from the remaining goodies in the cardboard box. I have heard talk of some people just having too many tools... is this possible? hmmm. For the rest of the meeting we discussed a few other tool events sponsored by the SWTCA and the MWTCA, as well as our own Annual Meeting to be

held Labor Day. Having unfortunately missed last year's Annual meeting in Denver, you can bet I am primed for another large tool get-together!

So that pretty much sums up our February 2001 meeting. You probably wont hear from this reporter about the next meeting at Lew Hartswick's home, as I will be vacationing in Sunny Seattle for that week. Signing off, this is Jason Fink, the roving tool journalist.



January Colorado Area Meeting

7th Day Adventist Church, Arvada, CO January 7th By Dan Kimpton

A beautiful, sunny winter day led all the collectors to the fieldhouse at the church in Arvada. I think of all the wonderful locations we've had meets for the RMTC, this location ranks right up there if for no other reason than there is lots and lots of space to spread out. The hosts that put together the refreshments made sure no one went away hungry or thirsty. There were sausages, vegetables and chips, and enough different deserts to sharpen anybody's sweet tooth. Someone — not sure who — had a cake decorated with the Shavings Sawdust and Splinters logo! The hosts included Bill Baker, Greg Mikulewicz, Bill Morrison, Don Sharp and Sam Wells. Along with all the club members, there were plenty of new members who had recently joined.

There were displays by many, including: a Harris patent jointer plane put together by Cliff Fales; some recent acquisitions by John Goss including hammers, wood planes and a nut wrench with patent 589765. Don Burd had a selection of braces and drills; Bob Finch had a display of assorted drills; Wes Stratman had a #72 patent and other collectibles; Dal Schaffer who was a guest even had a display of auger bits in a roll, a plow plane and other items. Grace Goss had a 'walking display' of a jeweled 'nanny pin' sewing kit worn as a necklace by nannies. Gail Parks showed an axe handle attachment patented 12/10/78 by George Merrill as well as a level by Toledo. Don Jordan had a Miller's patent #50 bronze plow plane along with a book that had pictures of the plane. King Harrison had some unknown wrenches that could have been for carriage makers, or fencing, or other. Steve Scruggs displayed what could have been a user made rabbet plane; and finally, Steve Butti had a 601 Bedrock made by Superior Works and a #1 for comparison.

January Colorado Meeting (continued)

Dr. Charles Aumiller did a demonstration and slide show on Windsor chair making. He had gone back east to a weeklong class on Windsor chair making given by Michael Dunbar. Charles had also brought the chair he made during the class for everyone to see.

Remember for the future, this is the place you can drag out all your tools and/or display items because of the room this venue provides. See you next year.

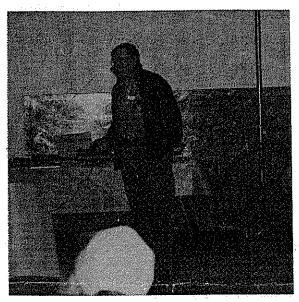


Photo by Dan Kimpton Charles Aumiller and his Windsor Chair, Jan. 2001

March Colorado Area Meeting Red Rocks Community College, Lakewood, CO

March 4th By Dan Kimpton

Our annual trek to Red Rocks again brought a good turnout. Norm Nickolay, a shop instructor at the college graciously gave of his time and opened up the place for the members to set up shop so to speak. I've got to tell you, I don't know how many years we've been coming out here, but it seems the roads change every year. Steve Scruggs stood in as the acting president in John Gilmore's absence. The hosts of the meeting were Stan McAlister, Bob Finch and Don & Joan Biays.

The displays were plentiful set up on the benches in the shop. Don Biays had a number of well presented items including a maple handled slick from the James Swan Co., a Stanley 65 and a 60 ½ low angle planes, a wood plow plane by E.C. Ring of Worthington, MA that Don had replaced the spars and finally a ship adze. If you ever get a chance to talk to Don about how he comes about some of his tools, you'd think he was the luckiest collector around! Wes Stratman from Pueblo had a patent pending Triangle Armored Cable tool. Grace Goss had another Pin Needle Case worn around the neck from 1870.

Cliff Fales had researched and presented an excellent talk on ratchet screwdrivers. He had examples from North Brothers, Keen Kutter, Forest City, Goodell Pratt, Union, Millers Falls, Stanley, George Gay, Thayer, Ellrich Hardware amongst others. Cliff always does such a good job everyone should learn something from him.



Book Review

Handcrafting Bamboo Fly Rods

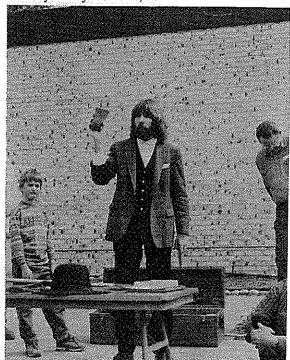
by Wayne Cattanach,

Review by Tom Madden

Before discussing this "how-to book", I feel one should know something about the author. Wayne Cattanach has been making bamboo fly rods for 17 years and has been a user of hand tools all his life. In 1992 he self published this book. Mr. Cattanach is also one of the organizers of the annual get together of rod makers that meet in Grayling, Michigan. This event, in its' seventh year, is known as "Rodmakers at Greyrock".

This is a hard cover book of 210 pages with a colorful dustjacket illustrating a Stanley 9 1/2 and a Stanley 212 plane (both reproductions produced by Lie-Nielson). About one third of the text of the current edition is new and a lot of the information was obtained from questions raised by students. The latest edition includes an additional 200 photos. The book gives information about rod basics, the origins of tonkin bamboo, the tools and forms used in making the rod and a chapter devoted to the fishing process. There is also a chapter on "Fly-Rod Repairs" which will be helpful to the person who is not interested in making fly rods, but who wants to repair old and broken rods. The seven appendices, A through G, contain not only technical information but also a "tool checklist" and "sources" which would be useful to anyone who uses hand tools. Besides the photos there are many illustrations and line drawings to guide the person interested in making a bamboo fly rod.

I found the book to be well organized with plenty of detail and very useful information for the hand tool user. Published by the Lyons Press, 2000



April Colorado Area Meeting Golden Pioneer Museum, Golden, CO April 8th

By Dan Kimpton

The sunny weather enabled us to hold the meeting outside in the parking lot in Golden. Over 75 members and their guests were treated by quite a few sale tables loaded to the gills with tools of all different types. The hosts at this meeting were Bryan Macheel, Wayne Hancock, Tillie Ridell and Cliff Fales.

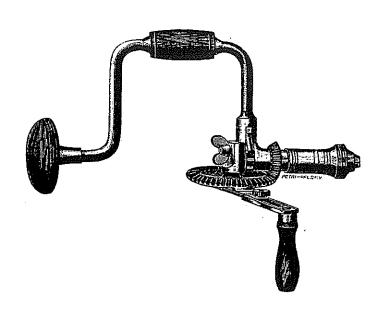
For the presentation topic Rex Rideout talked about the 'Evolution of the European Axe' and showed some examples throughout the ages. Rex's collection included many different types both with and without the handles. He had different examples showing the failure modes of poorly manufactured axes as well as the explanation why they failed. All told, I think everyone learned something new about this most important tool.

Displays at the meet included a Goodell Pratt hand drill by Bill Baker; unusual and strange planes from Bob Finch; recent acquisitions by John Goss and Florida finds from Dick Dickerson. Don Biays had a couple of new finds including a saw from Denver Hardware and John Gilmore showed a collection of newly acquired hammers.



Rex Rideout with some of his axes

Photos by Dan Kimpton



Passings

Kenneth D. Roberts, of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, passed away in December 2000. He earned a BS degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MS degree in metallurgy from Yale in 1947. Mr. Roberts spent the next 20 years in metallurgical research followed by a stint as a teacher at the University of Massachusetts.

In 1966, he became curator of the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol, Conn., and in 1970 it's managing director. He resigned in 1973 to conduct historical research and write about antique American clocks and antique woodworking tools.

He wrote many books, including "The Contributions of Joseph Ives to Connecticut Clock Technology, 1810-1862", "Ely Terry and the Connecticut Shelf Clock", two volumes of a series titled "Wooden Planes in 19th Century America", "Tools for the Trades and Crafts: A Study of an 18th Century Pattern Book", and "Some 19th Century Woodworking Tools."

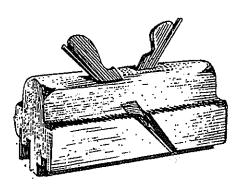
Mr. Roberts also issued reprints of 23 trade catalogs, along with historical introductions in the fields of clocks and tools.

Robert A. Olson succumbed to lung cancer in August, 2000. He was born in Chicago, IL in 1930. Bob had worked for Rocky Flats and was a 54-year member of the carpenters union. Our sympathy is extended to his sister Gunnie Tobias and brothers Bertil and Bill. He was missed at the spring meetings and will be missed always.

Discount on Fine Woodworking offered

The Taunton Press is pleased to announce that they now offer a 20 percent discount off the regular subscription price of Fine Woodworking magazine. This offer is exclusive to members of woodworking clubs and organizations. When 10 or more members of a group sign up for subscriptions, each subscriber will get the discount.

As an added incentive, each club will receive one year of Fine Woodworking at no charge when its club members sign up. For more information or to subscribe, call the Taunton Press at 1-800-888-8286.



Many ancient court records have shown that the ordinances of the trade guilds were abided by in that planing wood was strictly forbidden by carpenters, turners and wagon builders. Only joiners could plane wood except for floor planers. In large European cities this practice was eliminated in the 1550's because of the increase in veneering. The law was completely abolished by the guilds in 1670. However, small towns carried on the tradition of this law until the 1800's.

According to "The History of the Woodworking Plane" by Josef M. Greber,

Many East Asian customs differ from our usage. Screws turn to the left, the compass points south. Saws and planes are pulled rather than pushed. A Viennese technologist in 1868 deduced from studying Asian carpenter's woodworking tools that all Asians were all left-handed!

Demonstrators & Exhibitors Needed

Gary Renville of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry (WMMI) has asked the club if any members would care to demonstrate or exhibit items during their 15th Annual Heritage Days. The festivities will be on June 9th and 10th, 2001 at the WMMI. They are expecting over 3000 people to attend this year. The exhibits or demonstrations should depict activities from the American West including mining or industry from 1850 through the present. Our own Dennis Scheel will be demonstrating his bucket making skills.

For more information, please contact Gary Renville of the WMMI. He can be reached at (719) 488-0880

The Hiwan Museum in Evergreen has given RMTC three slots to come talk about tools. See or talk to John Gilmore about further details.

The Loveland Museum where the November Colorado area meeting is held has an exhibit on planes going on currently. This Museum is always very kind to RMTC and they always welcome our participation. For opportunities, please talk to Grace Goss.



Steve Scruggs & Bob Finch doing another masterful job at the auction table

Photo by John Goss

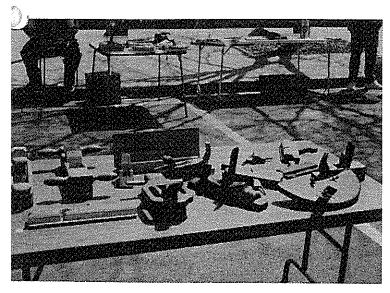
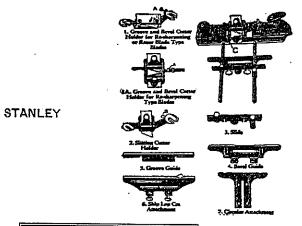


Photo by John Goss

Bob Finch's display of Unusual Planes





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are many opportunities to help and participate with your Rocky Mountain Tool Collectors. Contact one of the officers listed in this issue if you want to volunteer.

- Annual Meeting
- Historian
- Mailer
- Host
- Greeter
- Auction Staff
- Meeting Location
- Label/Name Tags
- Meeting Program
- Meeting Reporter/Photographer
- Nomination/Election
- Public Relations